



TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**7 MAIN STREET
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17 AUG -3 PM 3:25

COLLEEN S. FOWLE CLERK
DANIEL J. COLEMAN

Meeting Minutes August 10, 2016

Cindy Campbell, Roland Hachey, Gerry Ouillette, Rich Chiras, and Bill Dausey were present. Joy Anderson and Justin Arbuckle were absent. David Pickart, Conservation Agent and Barbara Kinney, Administrative Assistant were also present.

Mr. Dausey opened the meeting at 7:01PM.

Citizen's Forum None

(248-640) Church St. Extension Improvements (Map 28)

Proposed pavement rehabilitation, sidewalk construction and reconstruction, upgrade of traffic control devices, drainage improvements and widening for bicycle accommodation on Church and Quaker Streets. Applicants are Northbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MA DOT) represented by CHA Consulting, Inc., 101 Accord Park Drive, Norwell, MA 02061.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including notification to the abutters and posting of the legal ad.

Jay Hall and John Schonfeld at CHA Consulting were present and explained the purpose is to improve the roadway, drainage, pedestrian access and signalization at the intersection of Quaker and Church Streets. From the railroad tracks to Quaker Street the road will be widened (shoulders) with the exception of the two bridges. However, new signs and pavement markings and repairs to the guardrails will be done. There will be no work to the bridges themselves with the exception of the paving of the roadway over the bridges and the replacement of the guardrails. Several deep sump catch basins will be installed.

This is a limited project that will avoid impacts in some areas and limit impacts in other areas. The determination from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) has been received and it stated that the project as proposed will not adversely affect the actual Resources Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. The project as proposed also will not result in a prohibited "take" of state-listed rare species. The species of endangered concern include turtles and dragonflies on the state list and bats on the federal list.

The physical features of the area include a 100 year floodplain, inland banks of the Blackstone Canal, perennial river (Blackstone River), four wetlands and riverfront area. It will be an overall improvement to the area. Erosion controls will be installed. The

buffer zone, the bordering land subject to flooding (BLSF), and the river front will have limited impacts. There will be +/- 21,000 square feet of roadway being worked on with +/-32,000 square feet of roadway total. There is +/-38,000 square feet of riverfront area with an easement. +/-25, 000 square feet of riverfront area will be worked on. Some new impacts will be proposed. However, there will be no work in the 35 foot no-disturb zones. If the topography is steep, they will use rip rap, otherwise it will be fabric and plantings. 8-14 inch rock for the rip-rap is speculated to be used, however, Mr. Hall is not an engineer. Ms. Campbell suggested a special condition that the rip rap be all natural materials (no asphalt).

Mr. Pickart said that this is a redevelopment project so all the standards that are required under the stormwater regulations have been met. The rest of the standards have been met as practicable. Mr. Hall is requesting a waiver from the 35 foot no-disturb along the canal and river. Silt socks will be used for erosion controls so a silt fence is not needed. The silt socks can be spread out when the project is completed.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Ms. Campbell. The Conservation Commission (NCC) voted 5-0 to accept the waiver of the 35 foot no-disturb zone.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to accept the project as a limited project for Church Street Extension.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to close the Public Hearing.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Ms. Campbell. The NCC voted 5-0 to accept the plans submitted by CHA Consulting with the condition that natural materials (no asphalt) be used in the rip rap.

(05-RDA-2016) 20 Marion Drive (Map 21A, Parcel 35)

Proposed construction of a detached one story 14 feet by 14 feet storage / utility shed behind the existing dwelling at 20 Marion Drive. Applicant is Walter Evans, 20 Marion Drive, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including the posting of the legal ad.

Walter Evans explained that there is an existing shed on the lawn within 50 feet of the buffer zone. This property predates the bylaw so it is exempt from the bylaw.

Motion made by Ms. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Ouillette. The NCC voted 5-0 to issue a negative determination for this project.

(248-) Off Sutton Street Shining Rock Emergency Maintenance (Map 22A, Parcels 174 & 175)

For the emergency maintenance that was completed on an irrigation mail underneath the Blackstone River located within the areas of Riverfront, Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) and BLSF located off Sutton Street. The applicant is Shining Rock Golf Club represented by Strong Point Engineering Solutions, LLC, 115 Main Street, Suite 2B, North Easton, MA 02356.

The legal requirements have been satisfied including notification to abutters and the posting of the legal ad.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) file number has not been received.

Eric Dias from Strong Point Engineering explained that this Notice of Intent (NOI) is submitted after the fact and the work has been already completed. The work was done under an emergency certification. The irrigation pond for Shining Rock Golf was at a low water level and when they started the pumps they did not pump any water. They excavated test pits in already disturbed areas. They threaded a four inch pipe through the existing eight inch pipe under the river. Erosion control removal and the finish paving is all that is left to be done.

NHESP has been contacted but they have not received the letter back from them yet.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Chiras. The NCC voted 5-0 to continue the Public Hearing to August 24, 2016 at 7:05PM.

The erosion controls can be removed and the area paved in the meantime.

Old / New Business

Shining Rock Emergency Certification Form – Signatures needed.

The NCC members that had not already signed the certification signed the emergency certification form.

(248-633) Northbridge Self-Storage – Request to Amend Order of Conditions (OOC)

The NCC approved the OOC. Then the Planning Board made changes to the plan and the OOC references the old plans. The amendment request is to amend the OOC to reference the new plans.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Hachey. The NCC voted 5-0 to amend the OOC to reference the revised plans.

The new OOC will be prepared and the NCC members will need to come in and sign the amended OOC as soon as possible.

(248-568) Winston Woods – Request to extend OOC

The NCC reviewed the plans and discussed the extension request.

Motion made by Mr. Hachey and seconded by Mr. Ouillette. The NCC voted 5-0 to deny the extension because too much time has lapsed. The conditions of the site may have changed and the Wetlands Protect Act has been amended twice since the project was originally approved.

Church Street / Providence Road – Cease & Desist

Mr. Pickart gave a brief summary of his site visit. John McCarthy is the agent for all the properties that were forest cut. Mr. Arbuckle also attended the site visit and they looked at some areas but did not view all the areas due to the size of the project.

Massachusetts Geographic Information Services (MA GIS) showed areas that were not on the forest cutting plans. The recent view of MA GIS shows the cutting and Mr. Pickart targeted where the cutting is along the streams. 50 feet in from Providence Road is a wetland and the access road cuts right through it. There is vegetation there now. At an upper landing, there is a fresh water wetland and a BVW was clear cut and it is not shown on forestry approved site plan. The third area cut is swaths back and forth over a stream. In this last area, the stream comes from the high school property and flows onto this site and connects to the DEP approved forest cutting plans. There is a 100 to 200 foot wide path that was clear cut and a skidder ran down the stream for about 500 to 600 feet. Mr. Pickart is not an expert and is using the forest cutting practices as a guide. The filter strips around wetlands with only 50% cut are not there. Heavy equipment should not be there unless it is an approved access. The standard for exemption is not followed at the site. The NCC wants Guy LaChance of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to get involved to review the site and the missed violations. A cease and desist should be put into effect so no work can be done.

Per Mr. McCarthy, the only remaining work to be done is to clean up the debris and reseed certain areas. The cutting done should comply with DCR standards.

A more accurate picture is needed of where the violations exist. The land owners, the forester, and the applicant(s) should be consulted to get them to remedy the violations. An independent opinion is recommended.

A copy of the report will be sent to DCR and MA DEP. Mr. Pickart should set up a meeting with DCR (Guy LaChance) and at least one NCC member.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he has been doing forest cutting for many years. He submitted the plans and they were approved by DCR. He has notified the abutters and started the work over a year ago. Per McCarthy, sometimes rivers disappear. The forester came back several times to make sure the markers were correct. The cutting is now done and it was a heavy cut, per Mr. McCarthy, because there was a fire on the property. The project of 200 acres +/- is now almost complete with just a few issues with a few neighbors remaining.

Mr. Pickart explained that the DEP layer with the forest cutting plans of MA GIS does not show the linear features which is on a different layer that shows these other streams. This needs to be accurately shown on the plans and it wasn't. They need to be shown but not necessarily delineate them.

Mr. Pickart will send the report to Mr. LaChance at DCR and to DEP and set up a meeting onsite to discuss any violations and determine what the next step(s) will be. Mr. Pickart observed that not a lot of erosion occurred yesterday, but we're in a heavy drought. Some erosion controls should be placed in areas to protect the wetlands and the abutters until the property is seeded. The focus should be on what areas are to be cleaned up and how it will be done. Erosion controls are to be placed where needed.

Mr. McCarthy wants to continue work at the Providence Road side. Mr. Pickart thinks stabilizing the landings is a good thing so erosion controls should be placed to protect those areas. Mr. McCarthy wants to continue with the work. The NCC suggests Mr.

McCarthy submit this in writing. Mr. Pickart will try to set up the meeting for next Tuesday with Mr. LaChance.

The stone walls were removed, so the NCC will notify the Historical Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Ms. Campbell. The NCC voted 5-0 to leave the area as is until Mr. LaChance has the meeting with Mr. Pickart.

Enforcement Actions

None

Minutes

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting.

Executive Session

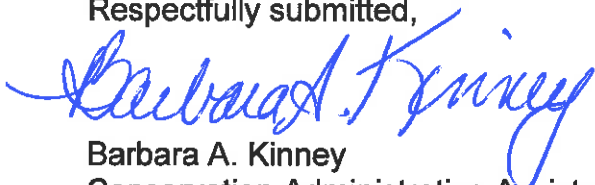
None

Other

The NCC members present performed administrative tasks (signed Orders, etc.) that were needed.

Motion made by Mr. Ouillette and seconded by Mr. Hachey. The NCC voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting on or about 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Kinney
Conservation Administrative Assistant

DATE APPROVED:



August 10, 2016

CONSERVATION MAIL LIST

[illegible]

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING